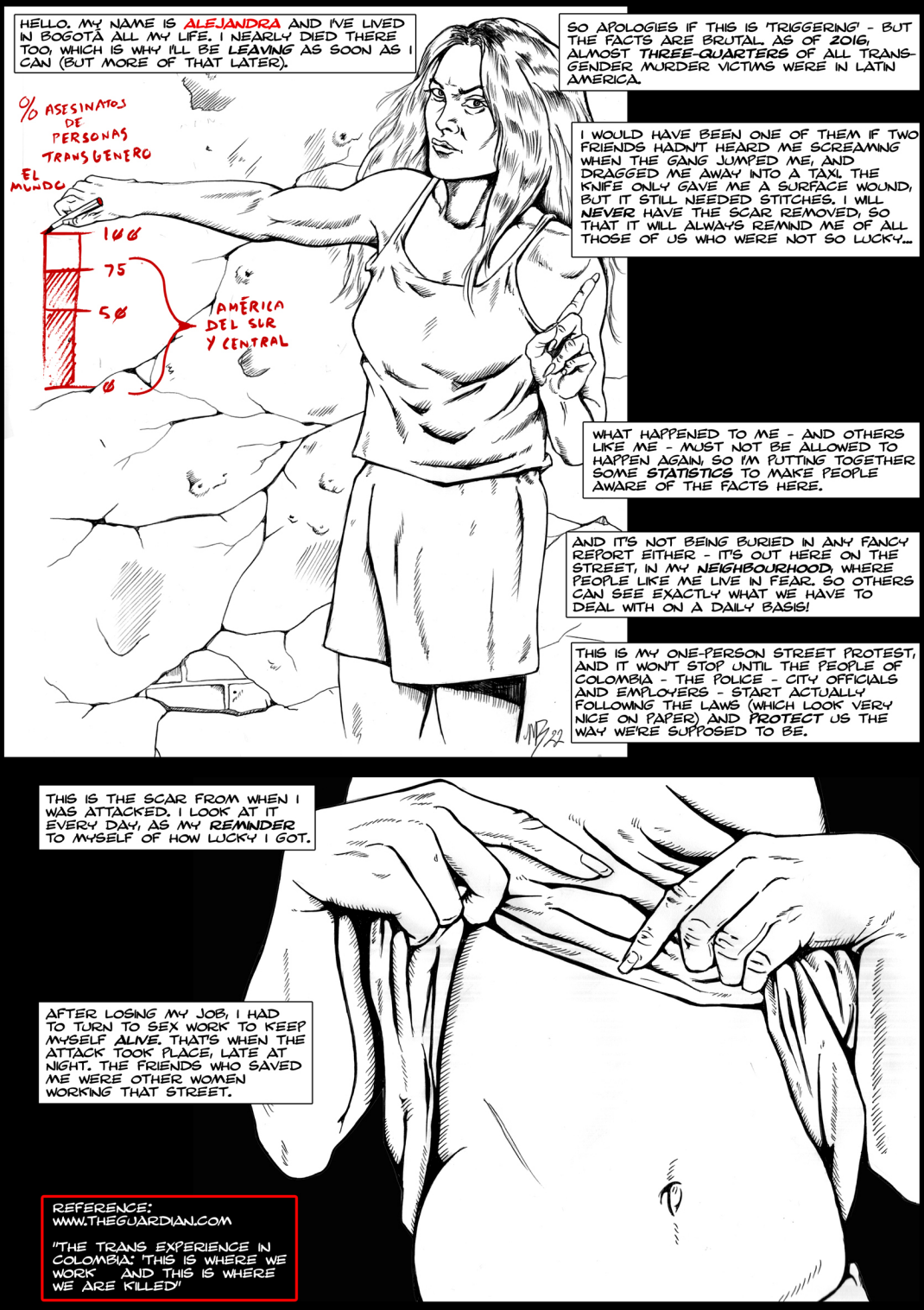
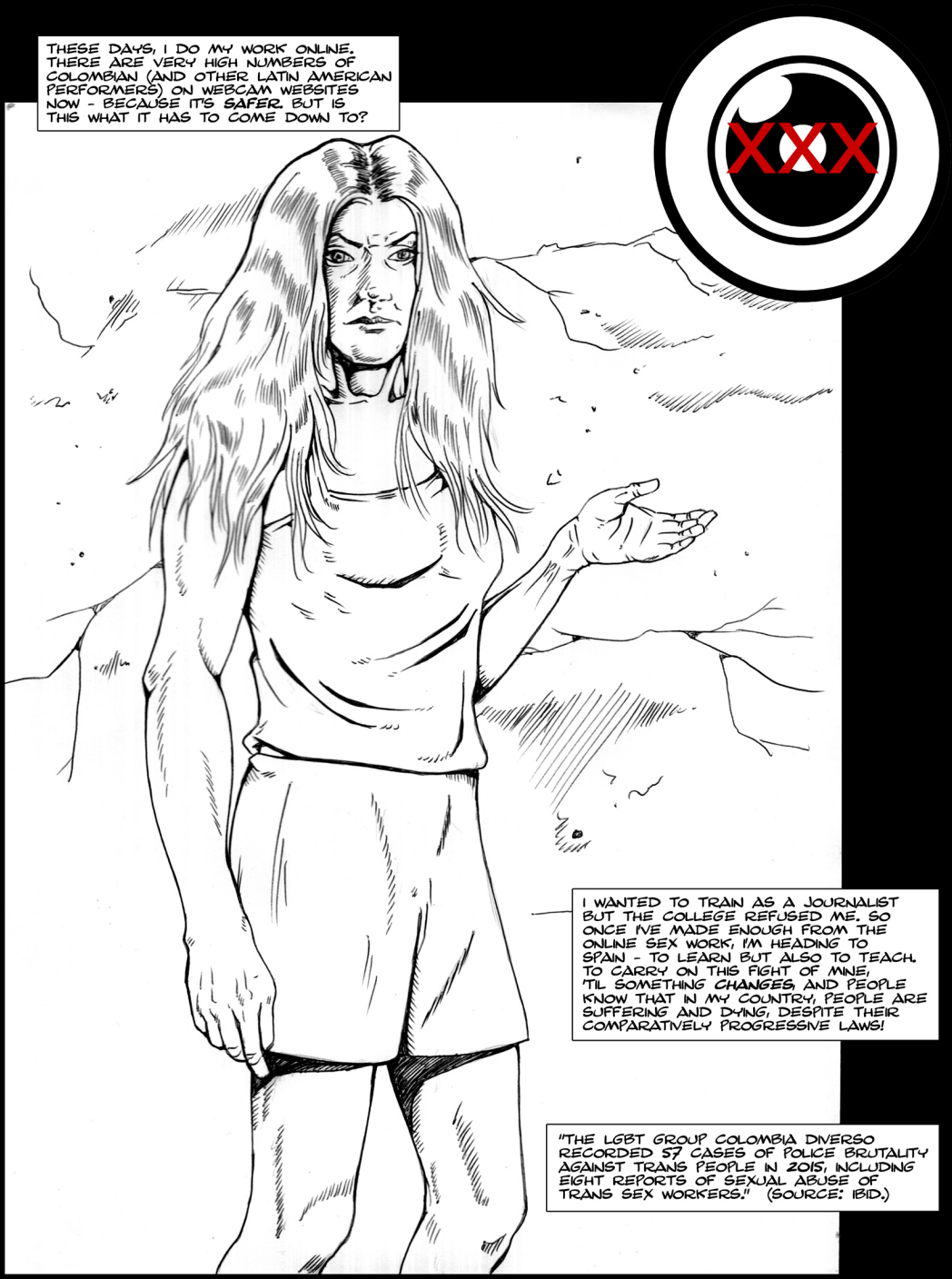
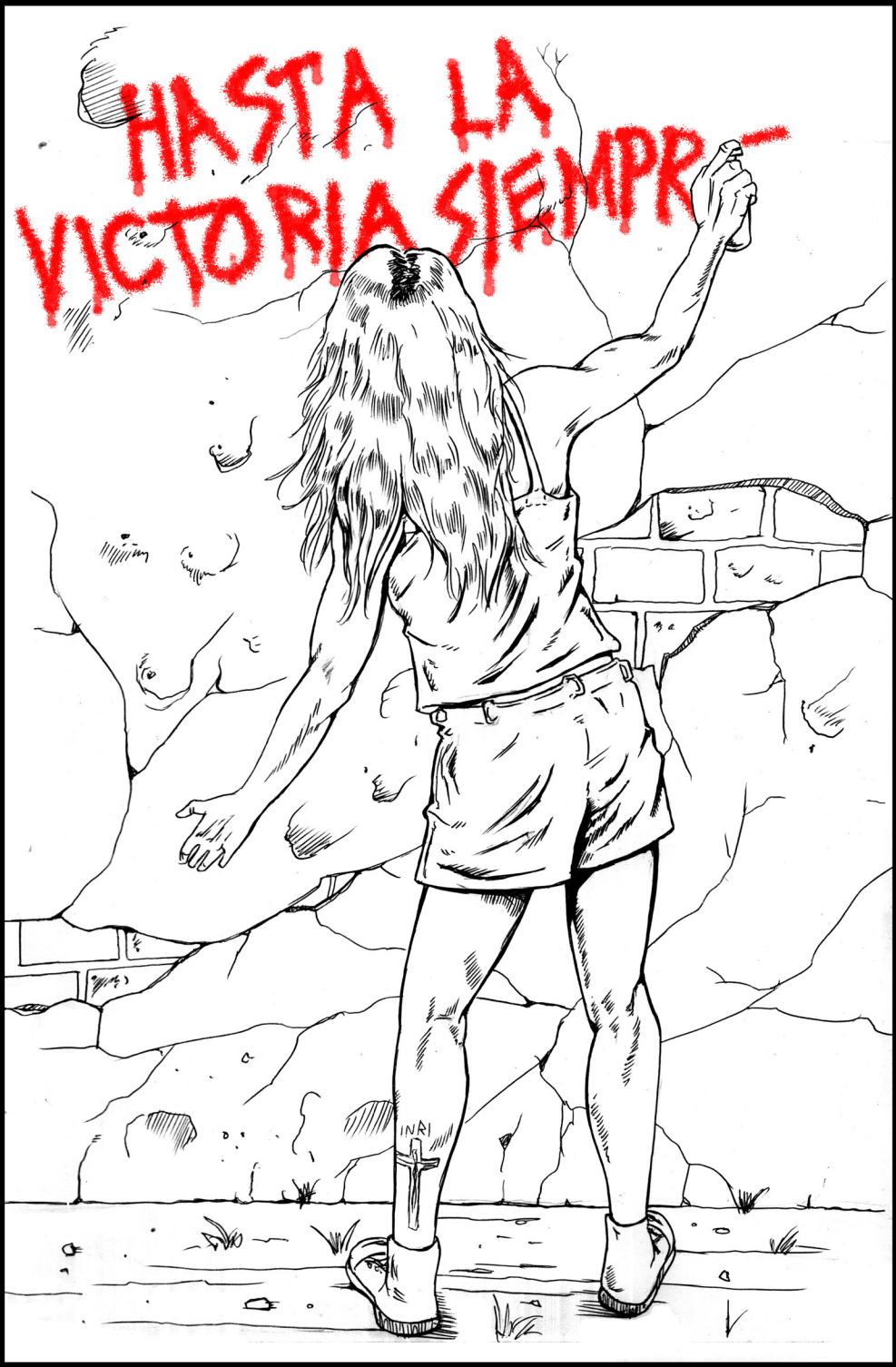
BIENVENIDOS A COLOMBIA
PARENTAL ADVISORY
REFERENCES TO VIOLENCE, CRIME STATISTICS, SEX WORK
DESPITE HAVING VERY LIBERAL LAWS PROTECTING LGBTQIA RIGHTS, COLOMBIA STILL SUFFERS HIGH LEVELS OF HATE CRIME.
ART+WORDS BY MORGAN BLACK


HELLO. MY NAME IS ALEJANDRA AND I'VE LIVED IN BOGOTÁ ALL MY LIFE. I NEARLY DIED THERE TOO; WHICH IS WHY I'LL BE LEAVING AS SOON AS I CAN (BUT MORE OF THAT LATER).
% ASESINATOS DE PERSONAS TRANSGENERO EL MUNDO
100
75
50
0
AMÉRICA DEL SUR Y CENTRAL
SO APOLOGIES IF THIS IS 'TRIGGERING' - BUT THE FACTS ARE BRUTAL. AS OF 2016, ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS OF ALL TRANS-GENDER MURDER VICTIMS WERE IN LATIN AMERICA.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THEM IF TWO FRIENDS HADN'T HEARD ME SCREAMING WHEN THE GANG JUMPED ME, AND DRAGGED ME AWAY INTO A TAXI. THE KNIFE ONLY GAVE ME A SURFACE WOUND, BUT IT STILL NEEDED STITCHES. I WILL NEVER HAVE THE SCAR REMOVED, SO THAT IT WILL ALWAYS REMIND ME OF ALL THOSE OF US WHO WERE NOT SO LUCKY...
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME - AND OTHERS LIKE ME - MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AGAIN, SO I'M PUTTING TOGETHER SOME STATISTICS TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF THE FACTS HERE.
AND IT'S NOT BEING BURIED IN ANY FANCY REPORT EITHER - IT'S OUT HERE ON THE STREET, IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD, WHERE PEOPLE LIKE ME LIVE IN FEAR. SO OTHERS CAN SEE EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH ON A DAILY BASIS!
THIS IS MY ONE-PERSON STREET PROTEST, AND IT WON'T STOP UNTIL THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA - THE POLICE - CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYERS - START ACTUALLY FOLLOWING THE LAWS (WHICH LOOK VERY NICE ON PAPER) AND PROTECT US THE WAY WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.
THIS IS THE SCAR FROM WHEN I WAS ATTACKED. I LOOK AT IT EVERY DAY, AS MY REMINDER TO MYSELF OF HOW LUCKY I GOT.
AFTER LOSING MY JOB, I HAD TO TURN TO SEX WORK TO KEEP MYSELF ALIVE. THAT'S WHEN THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE, LATE AT NIGHT. THE FRIENDS WHO SAVED ME WERE OTHER WOMEN WORKING THAT STREET.
REFERENCE:
WWW.THEGUARDIAN.COM
"THE TRANS EXPERIENCE IN COLOMBIA: 'THIS IS WHERE WE WORK AND THIS IS WHERE WE ARE KILLED'"


THESE DAYS, I DO MY WORK ONLINE. THERE ARE VERY HIGH NUMBERS OF COLOMBIAN (AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN PERFORMERS) ON WEBCAM WEBSITES NOW - BECAUSE IT'S SAFER. BUT IS THIS WHAT IT HAS TO COME DOWN TO?
XXX
I WANTED TO TRAIN AS A JOURNALIST BUT THE COLLEGE REFUSED ME. SO ONCE I'VE MADE ENOUGH FROM THE ONLINE SEX WORK, I'M HEADING TO SPAIN - TO LEARN BUT ALSO TO TEACH. TO CARRY ON THIS FIGHT OF MINE, 'TIL SOMETHING CHANGES, AND PEOPLE KNOW THAT IN MY COUNTRY, PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING AND DYING, DESPITE THEIR COMPARATIVELY PROGRESSIVE LAWS!
"THE LGBT GROUP COLOMBIA DIVERSO RECORDED 57 CASES OF POLICE BRUTALITY AGAINST TRANS PEOPLE IN 2015, INCLUDING EIGHT REPORTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF TRANS SEX WORKERS." (SOURCE: IBID.)


HASTA LA
VICTORIA SIEMPRE
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